

Juvenile Offenders Attend State Finals

A group of boys from the Northeast Juvenile Correctional Facility in Fort Wayne attended the state finals competition for the We the People program in the University Place Conference Center in Indianapolis recently. These youths were invited to this event and honored as special visitors following their participation in mock Congressional hearings at the facility in October. The facility hearings were judged by State Senator Gary "Doc" Dillon (District 17) and We the People State Coordinator Stan Harris. Among the speakers at the state finals were Secretary of State Todd Rokita, Superintendent of Public Instruction Suellen Reed and Director of Civic Education for the Indiana Bar Association Erin Braun.

The students attend the facility's school, Northeast Junior/Senior High School, and were selected and coached for the hearings by their Social Studies teacher, Cassie Kline. "These students' participation in a program of this quality and of this scope is a testament to their abilities and willingness to learn and grow," said facility Superintendent David Hartzler. "We're very proud of these young men."

"Participating in We the People is a prime example of how the Department seeks to prepare our youth for community re-entry," Acting IDOC Commissioner Bruce Lemmon said. "Students like these are much more likely to vote and be more politically knowledgeable, aware and tolerant."

Next year, Institutional Teacher Cassie Kline plans to expand the program and participate in the state finals as a showcase team.

About the We the People...the Citizen and the Consitiutioin

We the People is a project of the Center for Civic Education funded by the U.S. Department of Education. Established in 1987 under the Commission on the Bicentennial of the United States Constitution, We the People is the most extensive program in the country to educate young people about the history and principles of the Constitution and the Bill of Rights.

About the Northeast Juvenile Correctional Facility

The Northeast Juvenile Correctional Facility employs 71 employees and houses approximately 96 male juveniles committed by juvenile courts from throughout Indiana. The facility, which relocated to its present site in 2001, is located in Venture Park on the northwest side of Fort Wayne.

About The Department of Correction

The Department employs over 8,000 employees and houses 24,000 adult and juveniles in 32 facilities, ranging from minimum to maximum custody, prison camps, juvenile facilities and work release centers.

The Department's home page on the Internet can be found at: <http://www.in.gov/indcorrection>. The Department's Re-entry Site can be found: <http://www.reentry.in.gov>.